



## Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

*Stewards of the  
Pedestrian Master Plan*

Anna Zivarts, Chair  
Jennifer Lehman, Vice Chair  
Emily Davis, Secretary  
Ori Brian  
Akshali Gandhi  
Bianca Johnson  
Emily Mannetti  
Esti Mintz  
Han-Jung Ko (Koko)  
David Seater  
Maria Sumner

### Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021

**Board Members Present:** Jennifer Lehman, Emily Davis, Anna Zivarts, Han-Jung Ko (Koko), Jennifer Lehman, David Seater, Maria Sumner, Akshali Gandhi

**Non-board members Present:** Polly Membrino, SDOT, Brian Dougherty, SDOT, Anya Pintak, SDOT, Eleen Trang, SDOT, Carol Haffar, Brian Townley, Krystal Miller, and 2 members of the public joined by phone

### Welcome & Introductions

#### Public Comment

- Doug MacDonald—The agenda lists that there is a public email discussion, what is that about?
  - Jennifer: The SPAB email received an email asking the board to take action regarding encampments on the sidewalk, so the board will be discussing that email.
  - Doug: It should be called out as a substantive discussion on the agenda because some people might want to attend the meeting if they have opinions about it.

#### Transportation Equity Framework—Annya Pintak, SDOT

- Overview of Transportation Equity Framework (TEF) Part I: Values & Strategies
  - SPAB Presentation & Discussion
- Presentation will review SDOT’s approach toward reaching transportation equity and share the framework’s first deliverable
- The TEF is one tool in a larger toolbox at SDOT that involves community input, policies, and work plans; other tools include Change Team, Equity Cohort Training, etc.
- Development launched in April 2019 and includes TEW, TE-Intradepartmental Team (TE-IDT), Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) Change Team, and Women/Minority Business/Enterprise (WMBE) firm KAYA strategik LLC
- Role is to develop TEF with Part 1 (Values and Strategies) and Part 2 (Implementation Plan)

*The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city’s planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.*

–City Council Resolution  
28791

- TEW identified core topics that will be discussed in Part I: Values and Strategies
- Part 2 will involve developing the Implementation Plan
- Akshali: Are the Transportation Equity Values and Strategy topics internal to SDOT or external?
  - Annya: They are both internal for SDOT and external, which will be discussed later.
- TEW identified key topics that impact transportation equity, with the 2 main elements being Community Engagement and Decision-Making, Transparency, and Accountability
  - Also includes 8 Equity Strategy Drivers
- Activity for board members—Think of a time when you participated in an even or engagement activity within your own community or neighborhood.
  - What was the engagement event or activity? What drove you to participate?
  - Did you feel heard or seen by others during the engagement? If yes, what parts of the engagement activity or event made you feel this way?
  - If you didn't feel heard or seen, why not?
    - Maria: Attended a door knocking event for a political candidate that convened at a community center down the street. I felt heard and seen because the group was intimate and because the event was accessible and welcoming. It was easy to feel supported in that environment.
    - Koko: Attended a block party and participated because we wanted to know more about the neighbors and build a sense of community. Felt seen because we talked to a few neighbors and felt connected and had something in common in terms of race/ethnicity or interest. I did not feel heard or seen in the sense that it is challenging for a newcomer to join existing groups that are already well connected.
    - Akshali: Received a brochure from SDOT about a Neighborhood Greenway project but did not attend the virtual open house. The flyer was easy to read and understand and my parents who are immigrants would be able to understand. Even before the event happens, receiving a mailer was helpful to learn about the event in an accessible way. Virtual engagements can increase participation, but on the other hand, it can be a hinderance to participation.
- The TEW will help improve community engagement so people can feel heard and seen and to make sure that the community knows about neighborhood events that are coming up.
  - Another TEW value is Transportation Justice, making sure transportation is affordable, accessible, and just.
- SDOT Equity Efforts in 2021: Challenge, lead discussions, and train staff to adapt and change to be more racially equitable, identify tactics, etc.
- Call to action for SPAB:
  - Educate yourselves on anti-racist practices, the City's RSJI, and how to use your board role to advocate for the transportation needs of BIPOC communities
  - Replicate today's engagement in SPAB's meetings
- Questions? Get in touch with Annya [Pintak—Annya.Pintak@Seattle.gov](mailto:Pintak-Annya.Pintak@Seattle.gov)
- Q&A
  - Jennifer: Would the strategy for transparency, decision-making, and accountability strategy involve recruiting people who are not City of Seattle residents?
    - Annya: Correct, many of the advisory boards do not live in Seattle, but they do work, worship, or otherwise engage in activities in Seattle.

- Akshali: Can you clarify the differences between some of the tools in Transportation Equity?
  - Annya: Office of Equity and Economic Inclusion is lead office for where these programs are housed; Brave Spaces Training is open for all SDOT staff to participate, RSJI Change Team is a group that works with staff on different teams, Equity Cohort Training works with leadership in SDOT, Racial Equity Toolkit is used by multiple departments or project leads
  - Polly: Additionally, different people will be involved in different components
- Carol: Who is leadership at SDOT?
  - Annya: Leadership includes division directors, deputy directors, chief of staff, etc.
- David: Do you have anything to share about the PMP RET?
  - Polly: We will have more information to share with the board soon. There is a community group that is working on it as well.
  - David: Is there a reason why SPAB isn't involved in the community group?
  - Polly: I'm not sure why that is, but I will check in and get back to you. The hope is to have a presentation to SPAB soon.
- Annya will send draft to Polly who will email it to the board and post on the website

## Board Business

### Chair/Co-Chairs Discussion

- Anna: Was hoping to stay on for a new term, but do not have capacity right now. There are many capable members and I hope that someone will step into that role. There is not necessarily a defined structure, so the work could be divided further.
- Akshali: Thank you to Anna and David for your service.
- David: We have a great group, and you are halfway through your term, so feel free to step up the Chair role
- Maria: Anna, were you doing the Twitter account?
- Anna: Yes, I was and I'm happy to train someone else to do it, but also, it's optional and we do not have to use it.
- Jennifer: I could serve as a co-chair with someone, but hesitancy is around not having the policy background.
- Emily D: It seems semantics to have Chair and Vice Chair, so we could just have a group of people rather than just one person to share the duties. I'm happy to be part of that and be in the Secretary role.
- Akshali: My main hesitancy is barely keeping up with the emails as it is.
- Jennifer: We can put this on the back burner now because there is a lot going on. Kudos to Anna and David for their service.

### Subcommittee Updates

- Tactics group (Maria): There has not been a lot of progress, but we can recirculate the documents and use it as a living document to aid in various strategies. No next steps at this moment, but we can always add to the list for new tactics.

- Guiding Principles (Bianca): Nothing further to add, but we can create a space for documents to be together.
- Policy group (Akshali): We created the document as a repository for big questions to focus on, but we don't have a main next step.
  - Anna: Yes, I have this document and it was useful for creating the agenda and I will make sure that everyone has access to it.
- Bianca will compile the documents to be in the same place for SPAB to access.
- Levy Oversight Committee (Jennifer): SDOT shared planned accomplishments for 2021 for the Move Seattle Levy including pedestrian projects, sidewalk repair, etc. I will send this to the group and it can be found on the Move Seattle site.
  - SDOT fell behind in 2020 and did not meet some of the planned accomplishments due to COVID and the West Seattle Bridge. SDOT is still confident it will meet the 2024 Levy commitments.
  - There was discussion on the car tab fee and what will be funded, but there isn't a project list yet. SDOT is hoping to get input from a variety of stakeholders to inform how they will make that decision, focusing on transit access and multimodal projects.
- Anna: David and I were in a discussion regarding the Vehicle Licensing Fee and how that funding should be spent. There will be another meeting and if I get an invite then I will forward it out to the SPAB leadership team. Next discussion should be more about how the framework will be applied and it seems like it will be part of a series convened by SDOT staff and people from the Mayor's Office.
- David: The meeting was somewhat frustrating because we spent 2 hours telling SDOT what our values are and in the future we should have conversations about what to do with the money rather than revisiting what our values are.
- Anna: Yes, it was also challenging the way that questions were framed. It pitted communities against each other and then tallied the results (e.g. how many votes did equity get versus jobs, etc.)
- Akshali: Microsoft Teams has a built-in files tab, could we add files there?
- Polly: I will check in to see where a good place is for SPAB to keep files.
- David and Anna—Regarding the meeting we were discussing, it sounds like it is part of a series. There should be more information coming and Anna can send the updates out to the team for whomever from SPAB is interested in attending in lieu of David and Anna.

### Recruitment Updates and Q&A

- We have received 23 applications for 3 vacancies to date. Applications are due March 23.
- The applicant review panel consists of Jennifer, Akshali, Esti, Polly and Eleen (boards and commissions liaison for SDOT); the interview panel will be Anna, Esti, Polly, and Eleen.
- Open time for questions from potential applicants:
  - Carol Haffer: I get frustrated with SDOT and my City Councilmember and the Mayor and what do you do if you are on the board and experience these frustrations?
    - David: Yes, it is common for folks on the board to get frustrated. That usually means that the board will have a discussion and then write a letter to Mayor, Council, or SDOT staff. It can also take the form of more one on one meetings with Council or staff. People on the board are passionate about making the City



- Anna: I also got this email through my work as well and I am not sure how to respond to it yet. I work downtown and have seen what this person is talking about and I have seen this area and sometimes my children and I walk on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> avenue because we can't fit the stroller past the tents. It is an accessibility, but it is a challenge because where else are folks supposed to go? There are people who have used ADA policy to encourage sweeps and that feels icky also because there are people living in tents who are disabled or use wheelchairs. There are also people who are only pedestrians, and this may be their only access point.
- Akshali: I know that it's not in our purview, but I wonder if we can provide a suggestion to offer an alternative location so that people aren't camping on the sidewalk but maybe another area or park nearby? That way the Right of Way is accessible and so that it is not a sweep.
- Emily D: I think directing SDOT how or where to relocate people is way beyond our scope. I am also wrestling with this given the complexity of the issue.
- Akshali: This is similar to the other public comment about the person getting hit by the bike. Do we just say that these are things that happen in the world and that this is beyond our scope?
- Jennifer: In both of these instances, it goes beyond public comment because the person is asking the board to take a stance. This issue is politically fraught and perhaps members of the board do not agree on the issue. I agree with Anna that the pedestrian right of way is impeded but not car traffic, so perhaps SDOT needs to set up something for pedestrians to use like they would to move around construction.
- Koko: In the email, the person said he talked to someone at SDOT [Jim Curtin] and that person suggested we contact SPAB to advocate for his cause. Besides acknowledging receiving the email, can we also contact the manager who suggested he reach out to us and do some advocacy for residents in the area?
- David: I like Jennifer's idea of using the tools that SDOT has to create a pedestrian right of way around the encampment like they would around construction. I would not advocate for clearing the encampments, but I would lean toward creating pedestrian access.
- Emily D: I agree.
- Akshali: Maybe we bring that up with the SDOT manager to see if that is something we could do.
- Jennifer: I also want to weigh this against our internal board agreements on how we respond to public comment. Maybe we decide if this is something we want to spend time on.
- Akshali: Anyone who writes or phones into the meeting usually has some questions.
- Maria: Maybe we could have a backlog. This issue is hitting at something more systematic like construction blocking the sidewalk, but I agree that maybe we have some higher priority things to discuss. Maybe the tactics group could add a document to the folder to show that it is important but also see how it compares to other priorities.
- Jennifer: Do board members have any immediate action items?
- Emily D: We could respond and let the person know that we had a discussion.
- Jennifer: I can draft something out and send it out to the group.

## Public Comment

- Doug MacDonald: I have two observations. First, the purpose of the advisory committee is to further advance the Pedestrian Master Plan. The hallmark of the Pedestrian Master Plan is to make the city the most walkable city in the country. It is the federal Civil Rights law to protect

access for people with disabilities. The Pedestrian Advisory Board needs to address this issue. The situation on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue is intolerable as a matter of the ADA. The SPAB should say that they are chartered by the ADA to make sure all sidewalks are accessible.

- Doug: Also related to equity, there was a great discussion related to equity. After being told by the importance for engagement, SDOT said that we are not ready to engage the board on the PMP RET. At the end of the meeting, asking about engagement, the committee heard from David and Anna who said they weren't engaged after SDOT said one of their values was engaging people. The person who wrote a letter to SPAB is not being engaged or heard. We have so far to go because what people have to say matters. David's leadership will be missed.
- Steve: I don't remember the earlier comment about using the ADA law to clear the sidewalks. Someone earlier said that using that law to clear sidewalks was icky. As a blind person, I have to use the ADA laws to gain access to some spaces, so I hope people don't believe that the ADA law is "icky".
- Doug: I want to speak up for Anna because Anna is an ADA activist, and I don't think she believes that the law is "icky". We do have competing concerns with ADA accessibility and housing for people. Just because it is hard, it doesn't mean that we need to retreat from the problem.
- Carol [in meeting chat]: Steve or others can refer to the Disability Commission and they will discuss these issues (or the Office of Civil Rights). If the person who wrote the email was disabled, then they can also reach out to [rootedinrights.org](http://rootedinrights.org). SPAB is not obligated to take a stance I suppose but Rooted in Rights will be familiar with the homeless disabled and I have heard this issue before. You guys get it, good discussion. Work as a team. Thank you.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:02**